

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
TREE/SHRUB PRUNING**

660

660 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowners desire and need to provide pruning for trees and shrubs. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, practice standard 660).

660 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS AND SURVEYS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify the need and to select the appropriate trees and shrubs that may require pruning. The purpose of pruning may include the improving the appearance of Christmas trees, improve the quality of wood products, reduce fire hazards, improve the growth or vigor of plants, and adjust the foliage and branching density of plants for the purpose of wind and snow control, noise abatement, access control and visual screens.

660 – STEP 3. PRUNING CRITERIA

PURPOSE

The pruning and shearing work shall be done in such a method and timing to recognize the limitations of the site and soils, achieve the purposes for the specific tree or shrub species, and be conducted in a safe and efficient manner. Pruning should be done to comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. The pruning should also be timed to minimize disturbance to seasonal wildlife activities, and to prevent wind damage or erosion.

Pruning tools should be disinfected to prevent the spread of pathogens. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, practice standard 660, practice specification 660 and applicable work sheets).

660 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe the methods and materials used during the pruning operation. Specifications shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

660 - STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is completed. Periodic inspection of the pruned plants should be conducted and additional actions should be done as needed. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, practice standard 660, practice specification 660 and associated job sheets).

660 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service practice standard 660, practice specification 660 and associated job sheets).